

ROTOVUE

Serving Marine Corps Air Station New River and Jacksonville, N.C.

www.newriver.usmc.mil

June 1, 2005

Vol. 44 No. 11

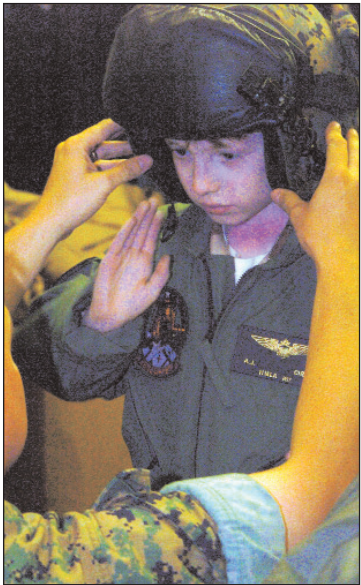
DAWN OF NEW ERA



"Thunder Chickens" stand down, begin Osprey training

Pg. 3

WISH COME TRUE



For one young Illinois boy, the Marine Corps is a dream come true and a chance for healing

Pg. 8

COMMUNITY HELP

Marines volunteer to help kids

Pg. 18



Station Open House a hit



Gunnery Sgt. Richard Small and
Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

See page 28
for more information

FLIGHTLINES

Flight line driving license

Air field driving classes are conducted every Wednesday at 9 a.m. at Station Operations in building AS-843.

These licenses are required for all personnel operating a government vehicle on the flight line.

For more information or to schedule a session, call Cpl. Toon at 449-6311 or 449-6316.

Free financial courses

Starting today, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., is hosting free financial classes for active duty, civil service, retirees and all family members in Bldg. 302.

"Taking Control of Your Finances" covers budgeting and credit and debt management and is being held today. "Car Buying: Getting a Fair Deal" is being held June 8. "Investment Basics" is being held June 22.

All classes are being held from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

For more information or to register for a workshop, please call the Health Promotions Branch of the Semper Fit Division at 451-2865.

Crime Stoppers benefit ride

Crime Stoppers of Jacksonville/Onslow County are sponsoring a benefit ride, on Saturday to raise money for their program.

Registration is at 9 a.m.

The cost is \$10 for the ride and door prizes and lunch are provided.

The benefit ride starts at 10 a.m. at New River Harley-Davidson at 2394 Wilmington Highway and will proceed around Onslow County with predetermined stops.

The ride ends at Hooters Restaurant on Western Boulevard.

A raffle for \$5 is also being offered, and the winner will receive a 2005 Harley-Davidson Sportster.

For tickets or information, contact Ray Geller at 455-1472, ext. 6427.

Kids fly, learn for free

The Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 297 is holding a Young Eagle Rally on June 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tarheel Aviation, Albert Ellis Airport, Jacksonville, N.C.

All youngsters between the ages of 8 and 17 can learn about flying and then take a short flight in an airplane.

All that is required is a parent or guardian's signature on a Young Eagle Application.

Applications will be available at the rally and can be turned in at the event.

For more information, go to Young Eagle Web site at www.youngeagles.org.

Blood drive information

In an effort to maintain a steady blood supply, the Station is hosting a blood drive June 14 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the old gym.

While all blood types are needed, there is an extra need for "O" blood type.

Maximum participation is encouraged and civilians working on Station are welcome to donate blood as well.

The goal of the blood drive is to get 100 volunteers to donate, so maximum participation is encouraged.

Some restrictions apply for those who can donate.

For more information about disqualifying factors, e-mail cjglazier@nhcl.med.navy.mil.

A few good police officers

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department is recruiting Marines as police officers.

There will be a screening test at the Transition Assistance Family Service Center here at 9 a.m. on July 14.

Those who pass the test will be mailed an application.

For more information, call Capt. Don Harkey at (704) 432-1615 or send him an e-mail at dharkey@cmpd.org.

Naval Academy visiting Station

A Marine representative from the Naval Academy is visiting here June 15 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Station Theater to raise awareness about the opportunities that the Naval Academy has to offer.

All Marines are invited, especially supervisors so they can advise young Marines about the opportunity to attend the U.S. Naval academy.

The brief will cover requirements and contact information.

These school seats are routinely left vacant so this is a great opportunity for the right military members.

LDOs, WOs wanted for duty

Marine Administrative Message 224/05 announces the Fiscal Year 2006 enlisted to warrant officer (recruiter) selection board for military occupational specialty 9815, recruiting operations officer, and to solicit applications from qualified personnel.

The Marine Corps Recruiting Command is convening a selection board at Headquarters Marine Corps on or about Aug. 4 for two days.

Only career recruiters with a minimum of three years experience in MOS 8412 are eligible to apply for the warrant officer billet MOS 9815.

For eligibility criteria, consult the MarAdmin or talk to the unit administrative section or a career planner.

Remedial driving classes

In an effort to maximize time and resources, remedial drivers improvement courses are now conducted only when requested by the Group or Squadron Safety Office.

All Marines who need to take the class are invited to attend.

The class targets personnel who have been identified as exhibiting bad driving habits or who have been sentenced by the Traffic Court Judge here to attend a remedial DIC.

Personnel assigned to the class by a Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., traffic court judge must attend the class offered on Camp Lejeune.

Counter-intel needs Marines

Marines are wanted to serve in the counter intelligence job field as tactical intelligence collectors.

Applicants must be willing to deploy for up to two-thirds of the year often in austere environments, operating independently with little supervision.

Applicants must have a valid U.S. drivers license, and be approved by a screening board.

For more information or to request a screening interview, contact Staff Sgt. Lawson at 451-8524.

2005/2006 Station guides

The 2005/2006 New River guide and telephone directory is available for pickup at the Joint Public Affairs Office.

JPAO is located in Bldg. AS-425, on Campbell Street, near the new Air Traffic Control Tower.

All units and shops are encouraged to pick up the guides and distribute them to individual Marines.

For more information, call 449-6196/6197.

New Illinois death benefit

The State of Illinois established a new death benefit for all service-members from Illinois who are killed in the line of duty in connection with either Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The amount of this death benefit depends on the date of death, and ranges from \$118,000 to \$259,000.

Claims must be filed within one year of the member's death.

For help applying for this benefit, and for assistance understanding this death benefit and other death benefits specific to the military, visit the local Legal Assistance Office or speak to section chiefs.



Commanding Officer
Col. Stephen L. Forand

Executive Officer
Lt. Col. Karl S. Elebash

Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. Lewis Summerville

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Rob James

Public Affairs Chief
Master Sgt. Brenda S. Donnell

Press Chief
Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer

Editor
Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo

Layout Technicians
Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola
Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

Joint Public Affairs Office Staff
Sgt. Wayne Campbell
Sgt. Andrew W. Miller
Pfc. Jonathan A. Tabb

Combat Visual Information Center
Gunnery Sgt. Richard Small
Lance Cpl. Noah G. Dunagan
Lance Cpl. Ezekiel R. Kitandwe
Pfc. John D. Cranford

Disclaimer

This Department of Defense newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the DoD. Contents of The RotoVue are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the DoD, or the Joint Public Affairs Office, Marine Corps Air Station New River.

The RotoVue is published by Landmark Military Newspapers, a private firm in no way connected with the DoD, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, or the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with MCAS New River.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DoD or military services, or Landmark Military Newspapers, of products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Joint Public Affairs Office. For information regarding content, contact Joint Public Affairs Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station New River, PSC. Box 21002, Jacksonville, NC 28545-1002.

If you have any comments or suggestions you may also contact the public affairs office at (910) 449-6196 or fax (910) 449-6478.

Osborn wraps it up, stands down as CO

Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263 is losing their commanding officer Friday during a standing-down ceremony here.

Lieutenant Colonel Roy A. Osborn, "Thunder Chickens" CO, will help ease the squadrons colors as HMM-263 personnel enter Osprey training, and then he will be relieved of his post.

Osborn will not be the only one relinquishing his duties, as all billets and titles will be stood down, including the squadron sergeant major and section heads.

"I have mixed emotions," said the Groveton, Texas, native. "It's good to be doing something new, but I really have been honored by being the commanding officer of such an outstanding group of Marines and Sailors."

After nearly two years of service as CO of HMM-263, Osborn said he is ready to move on to School of Advanced Warfighting at the Marine Corps War College in Quantico, Va., and from there to wherever the Marine Corps takes him.

"I would love to make the transition with these guys," said Osborn. "But I feel better knowing they will have a fine commanding officer in my stead."

Osborn and HMM-263 recently participated in support of the I Marine Expeditionary Force during Operation Iraqi Freedom II as the aviation combat element for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit from June to February of this year.

According to Master Gunnery Sgt. William J. Shine, squadron flight equipment chief, Osborn is a proven

commander and leader, and is "worth following."

"I was with him when we were both at (Marine Medium Training Helicopter Squadron-301) in 1987. I was a staff sergeant working in flight equipment, and he was a student pilot, only a lieutenant at the time.

"I worked with him again when we were both in HMM-268 together in 1990. Then he was the (logistics) officer, only a captain, and I was the flight equipment chief and a gunnery sergeant.

"Then he came here in 2002, and we went with (Marine Aviation Group-29) to Operation Enduring Freedom aboard the USS Saipan. When he became the CO of HMM-263, we went to OIF II together.

"He's a hardworking man. He's motivated, and he's not afraid to get dirty. If it needs done, he's the first to get to it. And in the end, I've enjoyed working with him every step of the way and would gladly follow him again," Shine concluded.

Osborn, who has been involved in the MV-22 Osprey program since 1999, when he worked as the planning officer for the Aviation Plans, Programs and Budgets branch of Headquarters Marine Corps, is also a qualified Osprey pilot.

He said he envies the Thunder Chickens of their future achievements as the first standing Osprey squadron and wishes them the best.

"I suspect I'll come across him again, though," said Shine. "But I'm glad he is taking the opportunities given to him."

Osborn concluded, "Though the Thunder Chickens will be out of flight for a period of time, they will continue to be ready for the challenge. Look for many more great things and "firsts" from this squadron."

New 'hard charger' commands HMM-365

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

Lieutenant Colonel James S. O'Meara will relinquish command of the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-365 "Blue Knights" in a change of command ceremony at the squadron hangar on Friday.

The new commanding officer is Lt. Col. Robert S. Barr, who is the Marine Aircraft Group-29 special projects officer. O'Meara has been the "Blue Knight" commanding officer since November 21, 2003.

During his time with the squadron they supported: Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course; deployed to Marine Corps Base, 29 Palms, Calif., for Combined Arms Exercise 02-3; deployed to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., for Desert Talon II; and deployed to Al Asad Airbase, Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom, where they compiled more than 3,960 combat flight hours in under seven months.

"Scooter," as he is better known within the squadron, is going to the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C.

Barr, or "Rhino," was stationed here in 1994 as the assistant operations officer, the special projects officer and the operations officer of HMM-264, and he also served as the rear detachment officer in charge of HMM-261.

In his career, he has attended the Air Command and Staff College, earned a master's degree in Military Arts and Science, and served under the commanding general of the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory in Quantico, Va.

He has deployed to Cambodia, the Philippines, Haiti and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and his personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various service, theater and unit awards.

'Thunder Chickens' are getting new pair of wings

Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263 are trading the aging CH-46E Sea Knights for all new MV-22 Ospreys in 2006.

The "Thunder Chickens" are casing their colors Friday during a standing-down ceremony, and entering training within Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron-204 in preparation to becoming the first fleet MV-22 squadron.

If all goes correctly, they will be transitioning from HMM-263 to VMM-263, or Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron-263, by the summer of 2006.

"We'll still be the Thunder Chickens," said HMM-263 Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Roy A. Osborn. "We'll just have new aircraft."

"We will have transferred all of our aircraft and non-transitioning personnel out of the squadron, as well as brought those who will be entering the MV-22 program with us into the squadron," the Groveton, Texas, native said.

According to Maj. Rick F. Fuerst, Marine Medium Tiltrotor

Training Squadron-204 operations officer and native of Wadsworth, Ohio, the first wave of Thunder Chickens are scheduled to begin training June 13, and if everything goes as planned, should be receiving their aircraft and transitioning in 2006.

"The whole move is going to be a challenge," said Maj. Wes Spaid, senior transitional pilot and administration officer from Dallas.

"It's a new frontier, from flying new aircraft to new tactics. It's all going to change."

Such changes, according to Spaid, include going through flight school all over again. The enlisted crew, as well, will be facing a new workload.

"With the integrated maintenance systems of the Osprey, Marines will have a lot of technical training to look forward to," he said.

"The new systems will be a challenge to learn," said Staff Sgt. Leonard D. Rudley, HMM-263

quality assurance representative and Mobile, Ala., native.

"However, the new systems should help reduce the time we spend troubleshooting which will make our job easier."

About the Osprey, Osborn said he believes whole-heartedly in the Marine Corps' decisions.

"Many people try to weigh the fact that the CH-46E, though old, is battle tested, against the newer Osprey, which hasn't seen action yet," said Osborn. "To compare the two to each other is impossible. The operational evaluation of the MV-22 will prove it's worthiness, and HMM-263 will be ready to take it from there.

"Our plan is to be out of the CH-46E business. We finished our tour as the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Air Combat Element in mid-April."

Between mid-May and the June date, the squadron has been

finishing up the last of its certification flights as well as making sure all paperwork is in order, said Osborn.

"We will also have to make modifications to the hanger and work centers to accommodate the new Ospreys," he said.

Osborn will be relinquishing his command of the squadron the same day stand-down commences on Friday and will not be transitioning into the Osprey program.

"I really would love to fly the Osprey, but there are other things for me to do," he concluded.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263 are trading their CH-46E Sea Knights for all new MV-22 Ospreys in 2006. The "Thunder Chickens" are casing their colors Friday during a stand-down ceremony, in preparation of becoming the first fleet MV-22 squadron in 2006 redesignated as VMM-263.

H&HS welcomes new sergeant major

Compiled by
RotoVue Staff

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron is welcoming Sergeant Major Robert G. VanOostrom in a posting ceremony today.

VanOostrom has served on Station two times prior in his career - once in 1993 as the Station operations chief, and again in 1998 as the Marine Aircraft Group-29 group operations chief.

He enlisted into the Marine Corps in October 1985 and completed recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. He graduated in December 1985 as the Platoon Honor Graduate.

Upon completion of recruit training, VanOostrom reported to Marine Aviation Operations School in Meridian, Miss., for initial training and follow-on assignment. He was promoted meritoriously to sergeant in August of 1988.

In December 1988, VanOostrom reported to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-451, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., for duty.

In September 1990, VanOostrom was selected to attend Marine Security Guard School. He served in Athens, Greece and U. S. Interest Section, Havana, Cuba.

In January 1993, VanOostrom was meritoriously promoted to the rank of staff sergeant.

In 1995, VanOostrom reported to Recruiting Station Nashville, Tenn., for duty where he was promoted to gunnery sergeant.

In August 1998, after successful completion of recruiting duty, VanOostrom received orders and reported to MCAS New River, N.C.

In September 1999, VanOostrom was promoted to the rank of first sergeant and transferred to 2d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2d Marine Division. There he served as company first sergeant for Charlie, Weapons, and Headquarters and Service Companies and participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In May 2004,

VanOostrom was promoted to his present rank and transferred to Marine Wing Support Squadron-171 located at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.

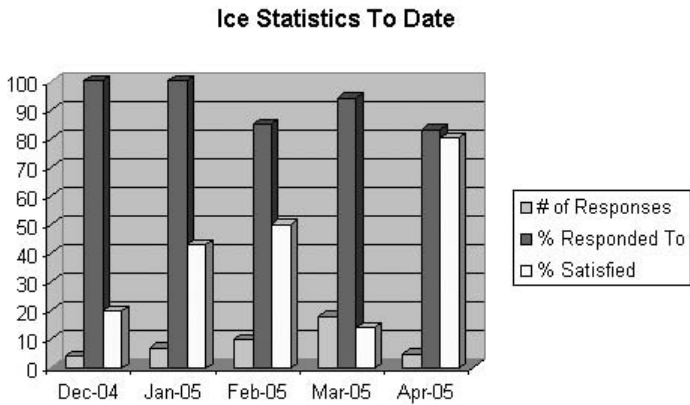
His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with one star, Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three stars and the Combat Action Ribbon.

He is married to the former Melissa Crice of Fort Gibson, Okla., and they have two children - Caleb and Cassidy.



Sgt. Maj. Robert G. VanOostrom

Station 'ICE' statistics



'Thunder Chickens' swap sergeants major

Lance Cpl. Jonathan A. Tabb
correspondent

In a ceremony held at the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263 hangar May 26, Sgt. Maj. John F. Rethage, HMM-263 sergeant major, relinquished his position as the senior enlisted Marine of that squadron.

Rethage was born Sept. 18, 1965 in Pittsburgh, and graduated from South High School in 1983.

After enlisting in the Marine Corps in March of 1984, Rethage attended his military occupational school at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Rethage has been on several deployments and according to Lt.Col. Roy A. "Ozzy" Osborn, HMM-263 commanding officer, Rethage's experience is an obvious factor to his outstanding leadership capabilities.

"He is positively one of the best leaders I have served with. He knows the Marines and Sailors, as well as their expectations, requirements and needs," he said. "He is a very hands-on leader and mentor with a wealth of experience in motivating Marines."

Rethage has been with HMM-263 for 21 months and, of his squadron, he said, "It is a very professional squadron because of the teamwork mentality of all the Marines and Sailors. We had a tight "Thunder Chicken" family atmosphere, and the pilots and aircrew were top notch."

Rethage is on his way to the 4th

Marine Corps District, Marine Corps recruiting station in Cleveland.

After three years in Ohio, Rethage said he hopes to, "come back to the operational forces and be the sergeant major for a (Marine Expeditionary Unit), group or regiment."

"Ten years from now (Rethage) should be finishing up as a MEU sergeant major or into his tour at the Marine Expeditionary Force or higher. He has the talent and the potential to go as far as he wants," Osborn said.

Rethage's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, 4th award.

Rethage said he would like to leave the squadron and Station with one piece of motivation.

"We must crush terrorists and terrorist states now, or they will continue to terrorize us until our great nation, our way of life becomes decimated," he said.

Commandant: Creating stability in an unstable world

When I assumed duties as the 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps on Jan. 13, 2003, I published my guidance in order to provide direction during the following four years. Today, the entire Marine Corps is engaged in supporting the Global War on Terror. While this mission is our number one priority, we also have the responsibility to prepare for the future. This message updates the guidance of Jan. 13 by laying out our vision for the 21st century Marine Corps. Additionally, it contains my intent for achieving this vision.

Vision

We remain the nation's premier expeditionary combat force-in-readiness. We are primarily a Naval force whose strength is our ability to access denied areas from great distances. We project Marine forces from land or sea bases for operations as part of a joint or combined force. We provide defense of the homeland by operating from forward deployed locations throughout the world. We sustain our deployed forces for extended periods of time.

We fight across the spectrum of conflict. However, we believe that our future will be characterized by irregular wars. We focus on warfighting excellence in everything we do. A guiding principal of our Corps is that we fight as combined-arms teams, seamlessly integrating our ground, aviation and logistics forces. We exploit the speed, flexibility and agility inherent in our combined-arms approach to defeat traditional, terrorists and emerging threats to our nation's security.

Every Marine is a rifleman and a warrior - our link to the past and our key to the future. We train and educate our Marines to think aggressively, with speed and initiative, and to exploit the advantages of cultural understanding. We thrive in the chaotic and unpredictable environments in which our forces are employed. We are committed to and sustained by our families, the American people and our operational partners. We are devoted to each other and the cause of freedom.

Intent

To provide the capabilities joint force commanders will need to meet the wide spectrum of challenges that our nation will face in the 21st century.

We will preserve our tradition of being most ready when the nation is least ready. We will continue to rely on our fundamental tenets of expeditionary maneuver warfare and combined-arms, air-ground task forces. We will enhance and expand these capabilities through the aggressive implementation of sea-basing and distributes operations. These transforming concepts will increase our agility and speed in operations from cooperative security to major combat.

Our successes have come from the aggressive spirit, adaptability and flexibility of our leaders and units at all levels. We will continue to create Marines who thrive in chaotic and uncertain environments. To that end, we will place renewed emphasis on our greatest asset - the individual Marine - through improved training and education in

foreign languages, cultural awareness, tactical intelligence and urban operations. We will develop and provide the best individual equipment available. We will train, educate, orient and equip all Marines to operate skillfully across the wide spectrum of operations, blending the need for combat skills and counter-insurgency skills with those required for civil-affairs. To do so, we will continue to attract, recruit and retain the best of America's youth.

Implementation of distributed operations as an extension of maneuver warfare will require a focus on enhanced small units: more autonomous, more lethal and better able to operate across the full spectrum of operations. This will require investing in the technologies and training that will provide individual communication, tactical mobility and networked intelligence down to the squad level. Our logistics and fires capabilities must be adaptive and scalable in order to support these small units, whether dispersed across the battle space or aggregated for larger operations.

We will rely on our traditional strength of working with partner nations in order to enhance regional security and stability. Additionally, we will place new emphasis on interaction and coordination with key interagency and international forces.

While ever ready to respond to major combat operations, the future holds a greater likelihood of irregular wars fought in urban environments, against thinking enemies using asymmetric tactics. Thus, we will adapt our tactics, techniques and procedures

as well as technology to enhance our capabilities to succeed in these environments. We will shape and enhance the capabilities of our reserve forces to respond to the 21st century environment and improve our integration and coordination with special operations command.

We will continue to enhance and transform our capabilities for forcible entry from the sea. Seabasing will significantly reduce our deploy/employ timelines while also dramatically reducing our footprint ashore. While the Marine expeditionary brigade is our primary forcible entry force, our principal contribution to the joint fight in major combat operations will remain the Marine expeditionary force.

A Marine Corps that celebrates its culture and ethos, but is never satisfied with its current capabilities and operational performance. A Marine Corps that is a learning organization: embracing innovation and improvement in order to increase its effectiveness as part of the joint force.

I charge each and every Marine to read and understand this guidance. Implementing taskings have already been delivered to the deputy commandants, directors and Marine force commanders. However, all Marines have the responsibility to fully support and aggressively implement the intent.

Semper Fidelis and keep attacking,
M. W. Hagee,
General,
U. S. Marine Corps,
Commandant of the Marine Corps

“Dragons” of HMM-265 tour Station, pay respects

Pfc. Jonathan A. Tabb
correspondent

A group of former members from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265 visited here May 20-22 to reminisce, pay respects to their fallen brothers and see what is new in the Marine Corps.

The “Dragons” of HMM-265 served in Vietnam from May 1966 until October 1969.

After Vietnam, the “Dragons” flew in support of many operations, including Operations Full Accounting, Desert Fox and Stabilize.

George Mitchell, former HMM-265 member, said, “I am just as proud today as I was all those years ago.”

During their visit, the former “Dragons” piloted the MV-22 Osprey simulators at Marine Aircrew Training Systems Squadron.

“Though they appreciated the technical advancements in aviation training since they were in the Marine Corps, they wanted to relive the best years of their lives by flying the workhorse of the Corps -- the (CH-46E) simulator,” said Crystal Mabe, Marine Aircrew Training Systems Squadron operations coordinator.

The group also toured the Marine Aircraft Group-29 facilities, including static displays and questions and answers with a pilot and crew chief.

A memorial was held at the Aviation Memorial here on the last day of their visit. The names of former squadron-mates killed in action as well as others who have died since were read aloud, bringing tears to the eyes of many of the leathernecks.

Mitchell said he was reluctant to come because he wasn’t sure he’d remember everyone.

However, he said that he came because the Dragons of HMM-265 played a very important role in his life.

Richard Rodeffer, former “Dragon,” said he was excited about having the opportunity to see all his old friends, but he knew the memorial service would be difficult.

“You become so close, it’s so much like family that it’s not something you forget,” he said.

According to Mitchell, “It’s all about seeing each other again.”

HMM-265 was commissioned on October 1, 1962, at Marine Corps Air Facility, Jacksonville, N.C., and originally housed the



UH-34 Seahorse.

In June 1965, the CH-46B Sea Knight helicopter was commissioned as a replacement for the Seahorse, and HMM-265 became the first squadron to transition from the UH-34 to the CH-46.

According to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Web site, to commemorate the introduction of the CH-46, the squadron officially changed their logo to the one used today. Pfc. Charles D. Lyles designed the new logo.

In April 1966, HMM-265 transferred to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and from there, sailed to the Western Pacific Theater en route to Vietnam.

New diagnostic system cuts maintenance time

Sgt. Wayne Campbell
correspondent

Maintaining and testing an aircraft for flight can be a long and tedious process using several different test equipment and trying to analyze what needs to be done.

The maintenance personnel of Marine Helicopter Training Squadron-302 are getting some help with the implementation of a new system called the Integrated Mechanical Diagnostic System.

According to the Naval Air Systems Command, the IMDS is physically installed on the aircraft and integrated with the onboard systems and mission computer. The new system automatically performs a variety of functions currently completed with separate test equipment, manual data collection and labor-intensive maintenance troubleshooting.

This is the first fully integrated multi-functional health and usage monitoring system fielded by the Marine Corps.

The IMDS applies full-time diagnostic monitoring to

the entire aircraft mechanical drive train – from engines to the rotor system, according to NAVAIR.

The mechanics then download the data into a computer and are able to make the necessary repairs.

According to Staff Sgt. David Hansen, HMT-302 quality assurance, the mechanics are able to track and balance a rotor head in one flight with the new system instead of the two to three flight average it took using the old equipment.

“We can make one large adjustment instead of making many small adjustments,” said Hansen.

In one situation, the IMDS was able to prove its capabilities to the squadron.

“There was one case where an aircraft with an IMDS installed was on a cross-country flight and the rotor was bad,” said Maj. Kevin Dobzyniak, HMT-302 assistant aviation maintenance officer. “Instead of having to send all of the test equipment to the aircraft they were able to use the IMDS to evaluate and fix the problem.”

The equipment is used as back-up to the gauges on the aircraft.

“There is a display in the cockpit and if one of the gauges stops working or is fluctuating, the pilot can pull up the information on the IMDS display,” said Dobzyniak.

In addition, the IMDS gives a warning when the aircraft exceeds the set parameters as well as recording all information.

“If the pilot feels or notices something wrong with the aircraft, he can recall the specific time in the system and can better determine what was wrong,” said Dobzyniak.

The new equipment is installed on five of the squadron’s 17 aircraft with plans to implement the IMDS into all aircraft, according to Dobzyniak.

The system takes about a month to install, but according to Dobzyniak, it is worth the wait.

“This new system gets rid of human error and allows the crew to receive readings, which make the aircraft safer for everybody,” said Hansen.

Dependents stock up on DeCA scholarships

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

Two children of Marines stationed here were each awarded \$1,500 Defense Commissary Agency scholarships during a ceremony at the Station Commissary on May 19.

The two high school seniors selected for the awards were Kyrsten N. Caires, daughter of Master Sgt. Leonard F. Caires, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 quality assurance chief, and Karl S. Elebash Jr., son of Lt. Col. Karl S. Elebash, Station executive officer.

“We were very excited,” said Leann Caires, who accepted the award for Kyrsten. “We’re also very proud.”

Kyrsten plans to attend the University of California, Los

Angeles, in the fall, her stepmother said.

“Every little bit helps,” said Karl Jr. “It helps because it takes some of the pressure off my parents, and that takes some of the pressure off me.”

Karl Jr. said he will be attending the University of Alabama next year.

Scholarship Managers, a professional scholarship firm, choose the winners by looking at academic merit, participation in extracurricular and volunteer activities and the quality of a submitted essay.

According to DeCA, 500 students worldwide were awarded with the \$1,500 scholarships.

“Community involvement is what the New River Commissary is all about; scholarships for Military Children is just one way to show we care,” said Station Commissary Director Pat Tourish.

Helicopter flight makes wishes come true

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola

Angelo “A.J.” Circo, a nine-year-old boy from Brookfield, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, likes to eat pizza. He sports a slight build, fiery auburn hair and wire-rimmed glasses that make him look like a young Harry Potter. His favorite music is heavy metal and he loves bright blue colors. He does well in school and loves his family. Just as it should be, but not quite.

He suffers from Crohn’s disease, diabetes and hereditary pancreatitis. He’s been in and out of hospitals and spends an awful lot of time with men in white coats. He has to check his blood sugar and gets tired more often than he would like.

Through his chronic agony, he manages to smile. After all, he’s just a boy and loves the military. His favorite movie is “Black Hawk Down,” and if he could have one wish for one day, A.J. would wish that he could be around the United States Marines.

Enter the Make-A-Wish foundation and a few Marines with compassion.

After being approached by Make-A-Wish, A.J. hoped that he could “drive or ride in a tank, take a tour of a Marine base and ride in a helicopter, if possible.” The Marines were contacted, and Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167 received their mission with open arms and hearts and helped to grant A.J.’s wish.

“This is a big deal for me; I feel like providence has taken over,” said Lt. Col. Christopher M. Clayton, HML/A-167 commanding officer and UH-1N Huey pilot for the flight. “The reason I say that is, a little over five years ago, my daughter was a Make-A-Wish kid. She had a malignant germinoma, which is a brain tumor, and we just celebrated five years of remission. After my daughter received her Make-A-Wish trip, this is something that I felt I can give back.”

A.J. and his father, Richard Circo, arrived at the squadron hangar and were given VIP treatment. Static displays of both

the Huey and the AH-1W Super Cobra, complete with mounted guns, were waiting along with a full flight suit, dog tags and a helmet for A.J.

“My only wish was to get real close and climb onto a tank, but my mom told everybody that I wanted to drive a tank,” said A.J. “When the Make-A-Wish people came to our house they asked, ‘what’s your secondary wish’ and I said, ‘ride in a helicopter.’ That’s what really started things.”

After being outfitted in the proper flight gear, A.J. and his father walked out onto the flightline and got their first look at the Huey they would be riding in. Clayton and his crew chiefs helped strap everyone in their seats and shortly after, A.J. was skimming across North Carolina treetops.

“This is unusual, for civilians to fly in a helicopter like this,” said Clayton. “We wanted to give him some excitement, let him see some things he hasn’t seen before and also give him some hope.”

The flight extended down to Topsail Beach, N.C., and around the city of Jacksonville, with A.J. even helping to pilot the Huey.

“The helicopter today was amazing; the view was beautiful,” said Circo. “I was amazed at how smooth they were.”

“It was neat. Very neat,” added A.J. “I wish I could stay here for two more weeks.”

After the flight, HML/A-167 gathered in the hangar and welcomed A.J. as one their own. Clayton even bestowed A.J. with the call sign of “Red.”

“It’s a great feeling that a young kid from middle America would like to come and see what the Marines are doing. I think it’s great, and we welcomed him to this,” said Clayton. “The American public loves the Marine Corps. The reverse is true, too. The Marines, to a man, as I have found, are absolutely loyal to the public. They believe in what they’re doing. To be able to go that extra little bit for a young kid says a lot for the Marines and a lot for the Marine Corps. This is an opportunity for us here, to give something a little extra. That just means a lot.”

For A.J., his trip to visit a few proud Marines was a bright spot that offers some hope and healing.

“It’s an amazing foundation, what they pull-off,” said Circo. “That’s the problem. You get to a point where you say, ‘what do you look forward to.’ You really get down in the dumps. This gave us a goal to shoot for and that made all the difference in the world.”

A.J. and his family will return to Illinois and continue to fight the unseen enemies that try and tear away his smile.

“Health-wise, we’ve been up and down, but we’re doing OK,” said Circo. “They want to put him back in (the hospital) when we get home, but we’re taking it one step at a time.”

No matter how sick, no matter what may come, he can swim in the deep waters of a healing memory and hold tight to the hope that comes with it. No matter what the future holds for A.J., he will always be able to remember the Marines and the time he became a young “devil dog” for a day.

He can go on eating pizza, doing homework and being a nine-year-old boy. Just as it should be.



A.J. was fitted for his own flight suit on May 20, courtesy of Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167, which he took home after his flight was finished.



A.J. “Red” Circo “pilots” the UH-1N Huey during his Make-A-Wish flight on May 20. A.J. and his father each participated in the flight.



(Center) Lieutenant Col. Christopher M. Clayton, HML/A-167 commanding officer and pilot for the flight, escorts A.J. to the waiting Huey May 20, granting him one of his wishes. (Bottom) A.J. and his father, Richard Circo, pose with members of HML/A-167 after his flight to Topsail Beach, N.C. During his Make-A-Wish trip, A.J. also visited Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he drove a tank.



Free emergency child-care services provided

Sgt. Wayne Campbell
correspondent

In emergency situations, finding childcare in a short amount of time can be a difficult process, but with the help of respite childcare, the families no longer need to worry.

“The respite childcare program is designed to help out families in crisis,” said Marla Talley, Children, Youth and Teen Program administrator, Marine Corps Community Services, Camp Lejeune,

“We set up care for the children in family childcare facilities aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.,” she said. “Because MCAS New River does not have their own facilities, we provide care for their families as well.”

The program is designed for short-term care until the families can arrange for an alternate means of tending for their children.

“We provide up to three days of care,” said Talley.

There are several reasons why a family may need emergency childcare; here are some examples:

- * A family member is hospitalized, and the spouse is deployed.
- * A family member needs emergency surgery, and the spouse’s command is unable to release them from their duties.
- * An injury occurs preventing the parent from being able to care for their children.

“A few months ago I had a mother call who needed an emergency appendectomy,” said Talley.

“She had two young children, her husband was deployed and her family lived in Alaska.

“We were able to place her children into care until her family was able to come and care for them.”

The program is available 24 hours a day and according to Talley, children are placed into a home within hours.

There are two family care facilities on contract which are required to be available.

“There are several ways

a family member can receive the service,” said Talley. “They can go through their chaplain, their key volunteer or the officer-of-the-day aboard Camp Lejeune.”

This may look like a dream come true, but there are some limitations to the service.

“We are not able to provide in-home care,” said Talley. “We are also not able to provide long-term care; this is for short-term only.”

Even though the care is free to the parents, there is a cost involved to pay for the services.

“We operate with funds granted, donated and budgeted through Headquarters Marine Corps. Right now we are using the last of the money donated to us at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom,” she said. “The money was donated by the members of the community to help with the families who are left behind while their spouse is off to war to fight.”

If you are in need of childcare, but do not know if you qualify or if you wish to donate money for a cause to help military families work through difficult times, call the Children, Youth and Teen office at 450-1500.

You can also visit their office in building TT-91 across the street from the Tarawa Terrace Child Development Center or call 449-5252.

Pentagon, Naval services throw support behind NSPS

Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

The Department of Defense is placing final touches on the new National Security Personnel System, a program intended to replace the Department of Human Services for civilian employees working within the DoD, and is preparing to initiate it this summer, according to the official NPS website.

The NSPS was conceived in November 2003, when Congress granted DoD the authority to set up a new civilian human resources management system aimed at supporting those involved in highly critical national security missions.

In recent years, DoD and the Office of Personnel Management have focused on defining and ironing out the system with the help of current civilian employees, union representatives, senior leaders and public interest groups.

Some proposed highlights include: simplifying the pay banding structure, allowing flexibility in assigning work; increasing pay

based on performances, not longevity; implicating a performance management system requiring supervisors to set clear expectations linked to the DoD's goals and objectives; and holding employees accountable; streamlining and making the hiring processes more effective; making procedures for addressing disciplinary and performance problems faster and efficient, while also protecting employees due to process rights; and creating a new labor relations systems that recognizes the mission of national security as well as the need to act swiftly to execute that mission, while preserving collective bargaining rights for employees.

Though the program is event-oriented, and there are still a few issues to address before it is enacted, NSPS officials expect to be fully operational sometime this summer.

For more information, visit the NSPS website at www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps.

Editors note: The above information was gathered from the official NSPS website, www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps.



‘Ironhorse’ takes NCO of quarter

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
correspondent

A noncommissioned officer from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 was recently named the “NCO of the first quarter” for the entire 2d Marine Aircraft Wing after winning a board at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.

Corporal Casey G. Edge, HMH-461 avionics technician from Tatum, Texas, said his winning technique, apart from knowing basic Marine Corps knowl-

edge, was to “put on his football game face, maintain eye contact and use a loud voice.”

Edge worked his way up to the Wing-level board by winning his squadron and Marine Aircraft Group-29 level boards.

He was nominated for the squadron board by Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Snuffer, HMH-461 avionics chief.

“Corporal Edge has a great attitude and excellent tact,” said Snuffer, an Inverness, Fla., native. “He’s not shy at all. He always steps up to the plate when he has

to, and he makes timely decisions.”

According to Snuffer, he nominated Edge because “you know a winner when you see one.”

Despite Edge’s claim of being intimidated prior to going before the boards, Gunnery Sgt. Corey G. Beals, HMH-461 airframes division chief from St. Claire Shores, Mich., said he didn’t notice.

“He was extremely intense and aggressive,” said Beals. “There was no doubt when he came in that winning was what he wanted. There was something about him.”

Edge said that after reporting in and getting the first question out of the way, the rest was a “piece of cake.”

“Keeping your bearing is the most important thing,” he said. “I have the bearing part down.”

Beals said Edge seemed so confident during the interview that even if he had given a wrong answer to a question, the panel probably would have believed him.

However, through it all, Edge has remained humble.

“It’s great to get the recognition,” he said. “It makes my squadron stand out.

“It feels really good when you do something like that.”

The commanding officer of HMH-461, Lt. Col. Robert D. Pridgen, was also noticeably proud of the corporal’s accomplishment.

“I come to work everyday because of Marines like Cpl. Edge,” he said. “He epitomizes what Marines are supposed to be.”

Snowbirds visit Delalio, give positive message to children

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
correspondent

Hard work is an essential part of becoming a Canadian Snowbird and to making dreams come true, according to the message that two Canadians brought to students at Delalio Elementary School on May 24.

The Canadian Forces Snowbirds, Canada’s premier military aerobatic demonstration team, arrived here May 24 to begin preparations for their performance during the Station Open House.

Part of those preparations included visiting some of New River’s youngest residents.

Captain Michael French and Cpl. Daniel McIntyre visited Delalio Elementary School to give a presentation to approximately 250 students. The men brought the equipment they wear during flight, and they delivered a message of hard work being essential to making dreams come true.

“The Snowbirds told them they could be anything they want to be, as long as they are willing to work for it. It is a great message for kids to hear. These two men are examples that hard work pays off,” said Carol J. Batchelor, Delalio principle.

Visiting with children is one of the best parts of the job, according to McIntyre, an aviation technician and native of St. John, New Brunswick.

“Being able to put a smile on a kids face is what it’s all about,” he said.

French, a Langley, British Columbia, native, said he believes aerial acrobatic demonstrations, such as the ones the Snowbirds perform, hold a special fascination for the public, especially children, because despite being around for more than 100 years, flight is something that most people don’t understand.

“It is almost like a magic show,” he said. “It’s not something that everyone gets to do.”

After the presentation to the students, which included a highlight video and letting a third grade boy try on the heavy and cumbersome flight equipment, the pair took questions from the young audience.

Most of the students’ curiosity centered on the team’s ability to fly so close to one another without crashing. French and McIntyre tried to explain the hours of practice and technical expertise that goes into each performance.

“The best thing to do is be honest with them,” said French.

Batchelor said she was impressed by the message the two Snowbirds delivered, and by how well the children paid attention, considering the next day was the last day of the military school year here.

“These children have a great respect for the military,” Batchelor said. “When they see people in uniform, they are reminded of their parents.”

The team arrived here in three groups of three with each group taking the opportunity to survey the area before landing.

“We took a look at the shoreline as we were coming in,” said Capt. Paul Couillard, plane number two, inner right wing pilot from Ville Saint-Laurent, Quebec. “We’ll use the shoreline as a guide during the show tomorrow.”

According to Major Cory Blakely, inner left wing pilot from Edmonton, Alberta, the Snowbirds were happy to be back in North Carolina.

“We were in Wilmington just last week,” he said. “Our flight here gave us a good view of the countryside. It is very nice around here. This weather is just great.”

The Snowbirds, formed in 1971 and are stationed at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, have performed in nearly 2,000 shows across North America and been seen by approximately 116 million people. The squadron flies nine CT-114 Tutors during performances at speeds ranging from 115 to 370 mph.

Marine Corps Knowledge 101: Leadership Traits

Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

There are many things that can make a true leader stand out in our minds, from their actions, their model or simply the words they say. However, what is a true leader made of?

There have been a plethora of self-help and guidance books on leadership, but the Marine Corps has it's own definition:

"The sum of those qualities of intellect, human understanding, and moral character that enables a person to inspire and control a group of people successfully."

This is excerpted from the Marine Corps Institute course "Fundamentals of Marine Corps Leadership," which goes on to clarify 14 defining traits of a good leader to be: integrity, knowledge, courage, decisiveness, dependability, initiative, tact, justice, enthusiasm, bearing, endurance, unselfishness, loyalty and judgment.

"I think all the traits are important, and each is necessary to make a well rounded leader, but some have more significance for me," said the



Installation Personnel Administration Center inbound noncommissioned officer in charge, Cpl. Michael L. Allen.

Allen, who is a native of Wichita, Kan., and recent Marine of the Year, explains, "Of the traits, the most important to me would probably be endurance. Both physical and mental, endurance is what makes sure the mission is accomplished."

After receiving non-judicial punishment during his advanced school and being demoted to private, Allen has since been meritoriously promoted to private first class, then lance corporal, and recently picked up corporal through standard promotion means.

He said he feels endurance is what kept him from giving up early on.

"It wasn't easy, especially since I arrived on Station as a private," he said. "However, I made corporal in two years and one month, and it took a lot of work."

Good leadership traits aren't always a birthright, according to Allen.

"Sometimes leadership just has to be learned," he concluded. "Work at it, keep working at it, and always try to do what you know to be right."

Opinion

Living up to the meaning of NCO

Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

According to the Installation Personnel Administration Center here, there are approximately 5,400 Marines on Station.

Of them, 1,674 are non-commissioned officers.

To many, these may just be numbers, but for those who have experience with the leadership structure of the Corps, they are very important.

This is because at the base of this leadership structure lies the corporal or sergeant of Marines, according to Marine Corps Institute lesson 0033, "Fundamentals of Marine Corps Leadership."

As a private, private first class and lance corporal, leadership wasn't something I was directly responsible for.

I did my job, tried to follow orders and occasionally was given charge of some smaller assignment or task.

But when I was promoted to corporal Feb. 1, I had to re-think everything that I thought I had known.

I tried preparing, but I didn't know

exactly what I was preparing for, until the day came, and I was pinned on with a new pair of chevrons.

From that day forward, it seems as though I've done nothing but re-think and re-analyze my whole view on "command."

I'm now acutely aware of many things, which I wasn't privy to before, such as assigning tasks and mission accomplishments; just a little more of the "big picture," if you will.

Luckily for me, I have examples of good leadership techniques all around me.

But what I worry about is being able to apply them.

Can I accomplish the mission, no matter how small, every time?

Can I cover all the bases and make sure my Marines are taken care of? Can I be what the Marine Corps needs me to be?

I'm sure I'm not the first to have these questions or doubts, but I do know that all I can do is keep trying. The Marine Corps is designed around leadership, and the first rung of leadership is the NCO. Since that is what I am, then I guess I'll just have to do what needs to be done.

Book review: 'Marine Sniper' by Charles Henderson

Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

His name was Carlos Hathcock, and he will forever be immortalized as a Marine Corps legend.

It was this same legend, of a Marine sergeant during the Vietnam War who recorded 93 confirmed kills, that inspired the autobiography, "Marine Sniper," written by Charles Henderson.

Hathcock's amazing story stretches from his humble beginnings in Little Rock, Ark., through several years of war and shooting tournaments, to his promotion to the grade of gunnery sergeant and eventual retirement.

With his Springfield .30-06, Model-70 Winchester and classic Unertl scope, Hathcock hunted soldiers of the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong all across South Vietnam, proving exactly why the motto "every Marine a rifleman" is so important to our warfighting

tradition.

Recruited at the age of 17 in 1959, Hathcock came from a backwoods life of hunting and trapping.

When he finally stepped onto the yellow footprints, he knew his life would never be the same.

Quickly proving his shooting ability at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., firing range, Hathcock was then accepted to participate on the Marine Corps Shooting Team, where he proceeded to break and make numerous records.

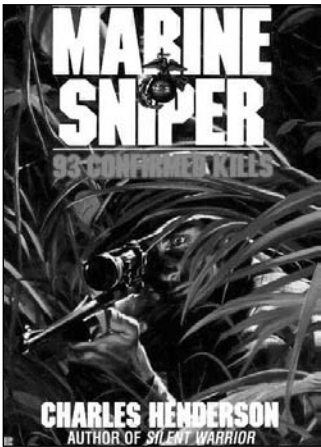
As the war in Vietnam heated up, the Marine Corps began to consider fully re-initializing the sniper program,

a plan considered by many to be unsuitable during peacetime environments.

Selected among the Marine Corps best and brightest shooting stars, Hathcock and several others were attached to a forward deployed sniper platoon located on Hill 55 and put under heavy observation.

His unit would become the testing ground for modern sniping tactics, and a proving ground for one of the most legendary aspects of the Corps.

Eventually, after several years of almost-continuous operations with amazing successes, the sniper program was fully revamped and made a permanent fixture in



'Marine Sniper' by Charles Henderson is a 320 page autobiography of Carlos Hathcock.

the Corps' tactics and planning.

During that time, Hathcock recorded 93 confirmed kills, including the infamous Viet Cong "Apache Woman."

"Marine Sniper" is filled to the brim with the stories and accounts of this great man, and I feel Henderson does an amazing job at giving us insight into the heart of a truly devoted Marine.

Henderson also calls upon years of combat experience within the Corps as a 23-year veteran and retired chief warrant officer. With his personal experiences in Vietnam and the Gulf War, he adds levels of depth and detail rarely surpassed by those without firsthand accounts.

This book is an amazing read. It refrains from the more complex writing styles of many authors, and I think it keeps in touch with the simple side of Hathcock himself.

Take a look at "Marine Sniper," and see for yourself what it's all about. You might be surprised.

Roto View

If you could have a conversation with any person in history, who would it be and why?

"Ronald Reagan because of the statement he made about Marines making a difference."

**Sgt. Louesa D. Sizemore
CH-53E mechanic,
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29**



"I would choose Benjamin Franklin, because he helped write the Constitution."

**Cpl. Roger A. Shuford,
motor transportation,
Marine Wing Support Squadron-272**

Operational Risk Management: A look inside safety



Courtesy photo

By using ORM, Marines can help prevent accidents similar to the one pictured from happening to them. In April 1997, the Marine Corps implemented the ORM safety concept as an integral part of planning, training and operations.

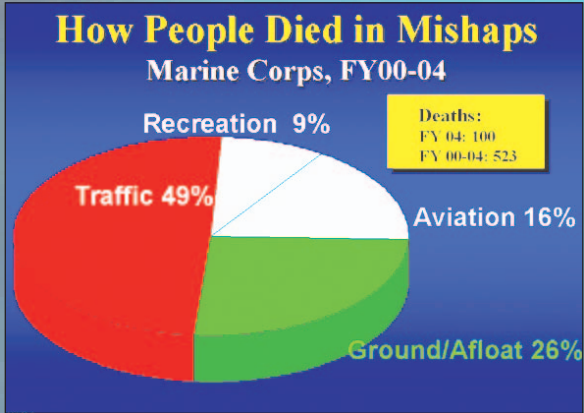


Sgt. Wayne Campbell

(Left) Lance Cpl. Luke C. VanDeman, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 crew chief, wears his personal protective equipment while taking fuel samples from a CH-53E Super Stallion. (Right) CAMP KINSER, Okinawa, Japan - A vehicle in the Provost Marshalls Office impound lot at Camp Kinser exhibits the possible effects of the high speed illegal racing that takes place on Okinawa. Practice ORM and avoid legal trouble.



Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich



Courtesy photo

(Left) The graph is a breakdown of how Marines died during mishaps for the last four years. Marines can easily escape safety accidents by remembering to implement Operational Risk Management in both the workplace and during liberty hours. The five principles of ORM are: identifying hazards, assessing the hazards, making risk decisions, implementing controls and supervising. ORM can help prevent injuries or fatalities.

Sgt. Wayne Campbell
correspondent

Operational Risk Management is a tool used by the military to minimize risks to acceptable levels, proportional to mission accomplishment.

According to the Naval Safety Center Web site, ORM is an effective tool for maintaining readiness in peacetime and success in combat because it helps conserve assets so they can be applied at the decisive time and place.

The ORM process began from ideas to improve safety in the development of weapons and aircraft, according to the Web site.

In April 1997, the Marine Corps implemented the safety concept as an integral part of planning, training and operations.

According to the Naval Safety Center, there are five steps to the ORM process:

Identify hazards

Conduct an operational and preliminary hazard analysis.

Assess hazards

Determine the degree of risk in terms of severity and probability.

Make risk decisions

Develop controls for the hazard to reduce the risk while determining residual risk. Once the controls are in place, make the right decision to determine whether the risk is acceptable for the benefit.

Implement controls

If the benefit of the mission is worth the risk, apply the controls to the lowest risk level.

Supervise

The decision maker should enforce the controls set and remain alert for changes.

Corporal Charlie Brill, crew chief, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-464, uses the ORM process every time he conducts an inspection on aircraft.

"When I perform a daily inspection, I ensure the chocks are under the wheels, the safety pins are in place and I wear a cranial," he said. "I also prefer to wear gloves so my hands are protected."

Brill also ensures accountability of his tools before and after he uses them so he doesn't leave any of them lying around to cause a foreign object debris hazard on the flight line.

"As a helicopter squadron we defy gravity every time we take off," said Lt. Col. Robert D. Pridgen, commanding officer, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461. "Safety is our life blood; if there is no blood, the body won't work."

The Ironhorses of HMH-461 are currently operating at approximately 50 percent manpower and boast a record of no mishaps.

"As a deploying squadron, we are supporting several different operations with a high turnaround," said Pridgen. "It is not our officers who are making us safe, it is the individual Marine out there on the flight line every day who makes it happen."

"It's not just at work," Pridgen continued. "We have had a few last-minute tire changes before a holiday weekend because the noncommissioned officers are out there to ensure their Marines are safe. I can't say they have saved lives, but the possibility is out there."

The ORM process is not only good for on-duty decision-making; it should also be applied to off-duty situations.

Off-duty mishaps are detrimental to the military's operational capabilities.

The process should be applied the same way for off-duty situations; the only difference is the individual servicemember is the one responsible for making the right decisions, according to the Web site.

"As a squadron (Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS New River), we are doing great safety-wise," said Bob Livingston, ground safety manager, MCAS New River. "Our last death was Easter 2003."

The fatality was caused by a motor vehicle accident during a 96-hour holiday weekend.

"The main contributors to the accident were alcohol, speed and weather conditions," said Marie Silence, safety specialist. "The vehicle was traveling between 95 to 100 miles per hour in a 35 mile per hour zone while the roads were wet. The vehicle then came to a curve and struck a tree."

Some of the most common contributors to vehicle accidents are excessive speed, alcohol, cell phones and distractions like changing the radio station or eating while driving, according to Livingston.

"It's not just cars we need to apply ORM to," said Livingston. "We should use it for everything we do including boating or riding an all-terrain vehicle."

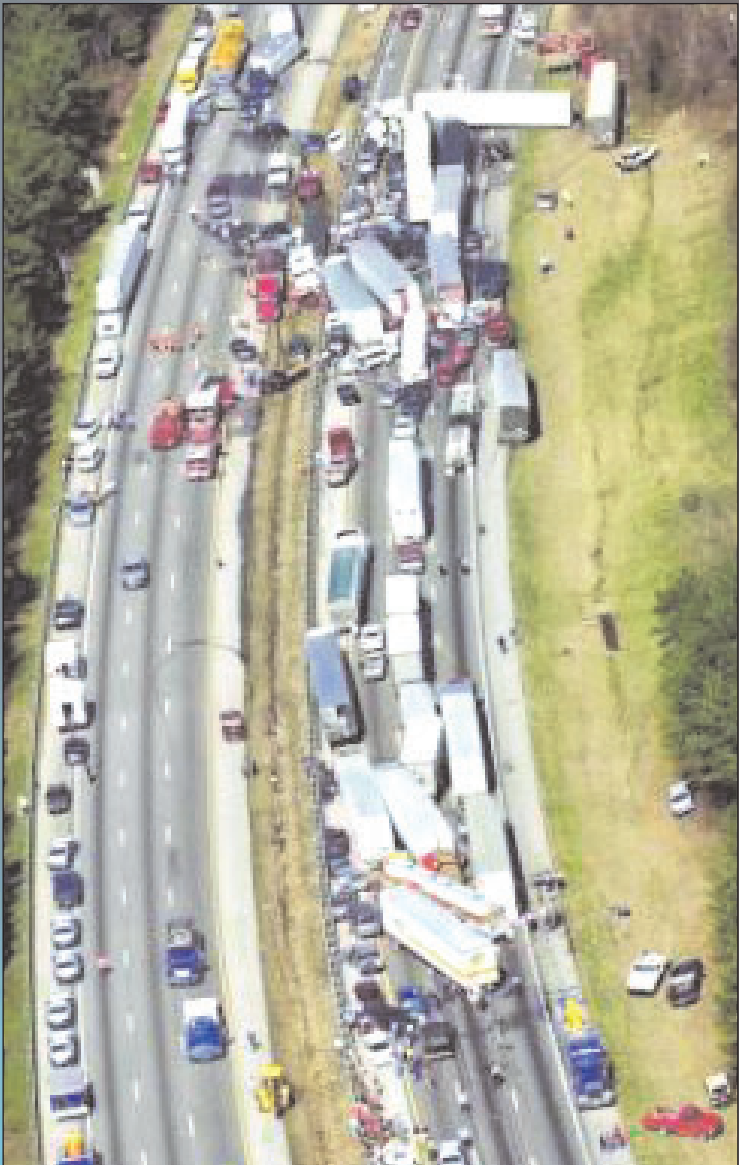
"Safety is not a one person or a one-shop concept. It's a cultural habit, and everybody needs to get on board. Life is worth living."

For more information, visit the Naval Safety Center Web site at www.safetycenter.navy.mil.



Sgt. Wayne Campbell

(Above) Corporal Charlie D. Brill, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-464 crew chief, wears a cranial and gloves while performing a daily inspection for a CH-53E Super Stallion. (Right) A massive traffic accident could result if Marines choose to ignore the principles of operational risk management. Assessing hazards and implementing controls can help to prevent both injuries and fatalities. (Below) Learning how to apply safety principles can help you avoid having to explain yourself to the authorities.



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Marines can avoid both fatal accidents and non-fatal accidents by simply thinking before acting, practicing ORM and attending Station safety briefs and stand-downs. "Safety is our life blood," said Lt. Col. Robert D. Pridgen, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 commanding officer. "If there is no blood, the body won't work."

Disabled children need your help

Sgt. Wayne Campbell
correspondent

The Muscular Dystrophy Association is seeking Marines to volunteer at an MDA summer camp in Stockdale, N.C., from July 30 to Aug. 5.

"This year we are expecting to need approximately 50 counselors," said Amy Pollock, MDA Wilmington director. "Each counselor is assigned a child and is responsible for him for the duration of the camp."

Anyone who would like to participate will be required to take leave for the duration of the camp, according to Pollock.

"When I volunteered to be a counselor last year, I had a great time," said Cpl. Chris Nelson, Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167 airframes mechanic. "It was a humbling experience. If I had the chance to do it again this year, I would go again."

The work is difficult, but the rewards are worth the effort, according to Nelson.

"We slept in the same cabins as the children and were responsible for making sure they took showers and were taken

care of," said Nelson. "Because of the children's disorder, the counselors worked together to make sure every child was taken care of properly."

"The children can't take a vacation from their disease so if I was able to help a child have fun and forget about his problems for just a second, it was well worth the leave taken."

The theme for this year's camp will be "The Amazing Race."

"The children will simulate traveling to a different country each day," said Pollock. "The children will participate in a variety of different activities like swimming, horse back riding and fishing."

The MDA is a voluntary health agency aimed at conquering neuromuscular diseases that affect more than one million Americans.

The association provides a variety of events for the people who are afflicted with muscular dystrophy, including bowling, golf and camps.

Though people may have heard about the disease muscular dystrophy, many may not know what the disease is or how to help someone with the disability.

Muscular dystrophy is a group of genetic disorders charac-

terized by progressive muscle weakness. There are many forms of muscular dystrophy with different genetic causes that affect people at different ages and affect different muscles, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, there are many muscle-wasting diseases caused by defects in the genes of muscle proteins. Most of these proteins appear to play a role in supporting the structure of muscle fibers, although some may play a role in the biochemical processes that occur in muscle fibers.

The term muscular dystrophy refers to a group of genetic diseases marked by progressive weakness and degeneration of the skeletal, or voluntary, muscles, which control movement.

The muscles of the heart and some other involuntary muscles are affected in some forms of muscular dystrophy, and a few forms involve other organs as well.

In Wilson County, N.C., alone there are 150 families registered with the association, according to the MDA in Wilmington, N.C.

For more information about volunteering to be a counselor, call the Wilmington MDA at 791-8585.

Nursing home residents enjoy night with Marines

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
correspondent

Twenty-one Station Marines volunteered to serve as escorts for residents at Britthaven Nursing Home's 4th annual "senior" prom May 11.

According to Allysha D. Koury, Britthaven activities director, the idea for the prom came from the desire four years ago to hold a dance for the residents.

"It just escalated," she said. "Getting the volunteers and all the planning probably starts a month in advance."

The prom began at approximately 5 p.m., as the Marines escorted the residents, many of who were in wheelchairs, from their rooms to the nursing home's common area. A total of 42 residents and their families participated.

The area was decorated in red, white and blue, with nearly 100 balloons floating on the ceiling and a large American flag covering a wall. Britthaven staff set up a buffet with a variety of finger foods, and a disc jockey played music throughout the night.

The Marines wore either their Service "A" or Dress Blue uniforms, and many said they were pleased to have a chance to spend time with the residents.

"I said 'yes' when they asked us if anyone wanted to come," said Pfc. Dajuan O. Canaday, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261 airframes mechanic. "I had fun and the people here tell some good stories."

Canaday escorted resident Ruth Kellum, who said she was glad to have the Marines come to Britthaven for the night.

Other Marines said they volunteered for personal reasons.

"My grandmother was in a home for a while," said Lance Cpl. Anthony P. Bello, Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training student. "That's basically why I came."

Koury said the visits from Marines have a big impact on the residents.

"They love it," she said. "They talk about it for weeks afterward. I have one or two residents who still talk about last year's prom."

The evening ended at approximately 8 p.m. after two residents were named the king and queen of the prom.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

Corporal Richard E. Loveless, School of Infantry sergeant of the guard, dances with resident Elizabeth M. Bond at Britthaven Nursing Home's fourth annual "senior" prom. Twenty-one Marines and 42 residents attended the event, which included music, dancing and food.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

(Top) Lance Cpl. David Y. Felicitas, School of Infantry Headquarters and Service Battalion legal clerk, escorts a resident during Britthaven Nursing Home's fourth annual "senior" prom. The Marines escorted the residents, many of whom were in wheelchairs, from their rooms to the decorated common area of the nursing home.

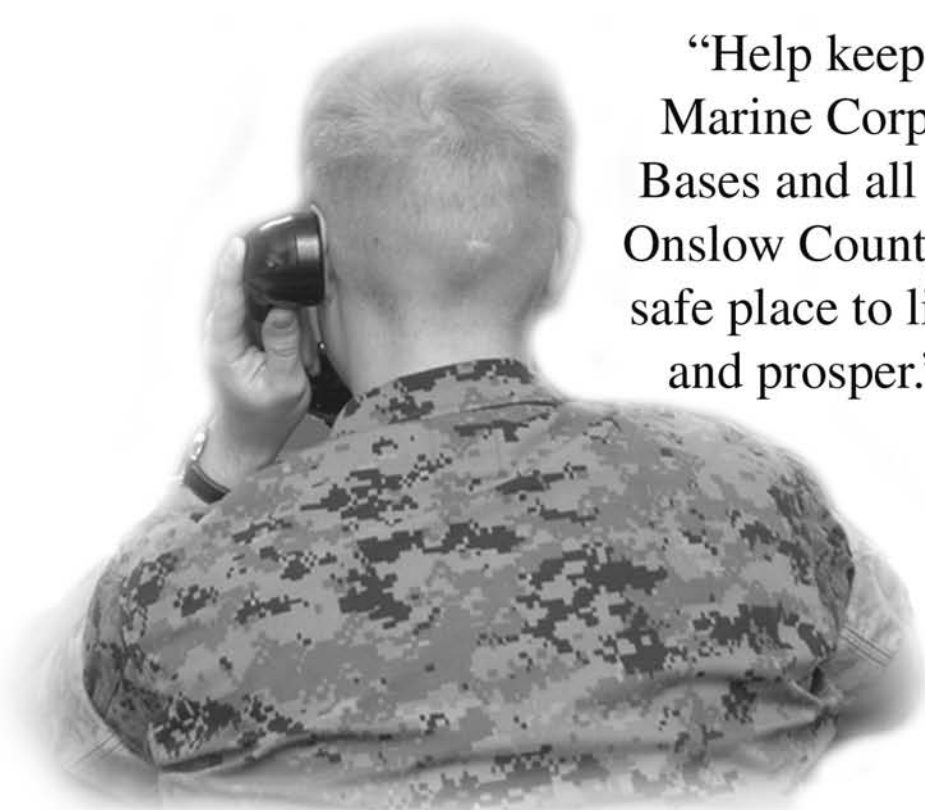
(Right) A Marine volunteer escorts Clarence Edsall, Britthaven Nursing Home's "senior" prom king. The nursing home, located on White Street in Jacksonville, is home to many retired Marine and Marine dependents.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

CRIME Stoppers

- * Report crime anywhere in our community.
- * Caller never reveals his/her identity.
- * Pays **CASH** rewards up to \$2,500.00.
- * Information must lead to arrest and indictment.
- * Reward is collected through code system.



“Help keep Marine Corps Bases and all of Onslow County a safe place to live and prosper.”

Call the local 24 hour hot line **938-3273**

New River Air Station

YOUTH CAMPS



FITNESS CENTER

Sponsored by:

Coke, Pioneer Services,
Progress Energy,
InnKeeper

No USMC or Federal endorsement implied.

REGISTER AT THE **STA. GYM - BLDG AS-202 - 449-6714**

4TH ANNUAL
Kick Osprey Soccer
\$55 PER PERSON

Children must bring a water bottle, cleats and tennis shoes every day.

JULY 11-15
(REGISTER: June 1 - 30)

(5 - 10 yrs old: 0830-1130)
(11 - 15 yrs old: 1230-1530)

5TH ANNUAL
Rotoball Basketball
\$55 PER PERSON

Children must bring a water bottle, tennis shoes every day.

JULY 18-22
(REGISTER: June 6 - July 8)

(5 - 10 yrs old: 0830-1130)
(11 - 15 yrs old: 1230-1530)

1ST ANNUAL
Kickoff Football
\$55 PER PERSON

Children must bring a water bottle, mouth piece, cleats and tennis shoes every day.

JULY 25-29
(REGISTER: June 13 - July 15)

(8 - 11 yrs old: 0830-1130)
(12 - 15 yrs old: 1230-1530)

OPEN TO DEPENDENTS OF ACTIVE DUTY, RETIREES, DOD, CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.

Station Marines volunteer, help out elementary field days

'Ironhorses' volunteer at Parkwood Elementary

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola
correspondent

Approximately 30 Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 volunteered to help a combined 600 children at the Parkwood Elementary School kindergarten through fifth grade field day on May 16.

The "Ironhorses" helped to oversee several games including the "dizzy izzzy," basketball and sack races, allowing the children to enjoy playing while maintaining the positive image Marines enjoy in and around the city of Jacksonville, said Lt. Col. Robert D. Pridgen, HMH-461 commanding officer.

"They hear us flying around all the time, and this helps them put a face to the noise," said Pridgen. "This is an opportunity. We're often consumed with work, flying and fixing helicopters. This is a chance to do volunteer work. It's a good time for the kids, and it helps the good relations we have with the community."

"We all live here in Jacksonville and consider it our home," added Maj. Archibald M. McLellan, HMH-461 executive officer. "It's positive to see these Marines laughing with the kids and helping to be role models."

The plan of bringing in the Marines is a resurrected idea from years past that allows the children to enjoy continuous play without having to wait for a turn, said Jace D. Redick, a Parkwood Elementary School

physical education teacher.

"With the Marines helping out, we can custom-make our field day," said Redick. "All the kids are doing something. The kids can pick a game they like and just go. Without the military, we couldn't do this."

Several of the children's parents were on hand to cheer their sons or daughters on and were impressed with the Marines participation, said Kevin Featherstone, a father who attended the event.

"I'm glad to see the Marines back; the kids love it," said Featherstone. "You always see the Marines doing a lot for the community, and this is just another example."

"It's a blessing; you all are wonderful," said Diane Jones, a stay-at-home mom and sometimes substitute teacher at Parkwood. "A lot of these kids need a role model, and they think it's so cool to see the Marines."

The Marines who participated became infected with the children's contagious smiles and seemed to enjoy helping out, said Lance Cpl. Brandon Hawke, HMH-461 logistics clerk.

"I heard about this, and said, 'Put me on,'" said Hawke. "You've got to get out there. You always hear about the bad and stupid Marines, and this lets the community know we're good guys. I'm having fun with it."

In addition to the games, hot dogs and soda were served to volunteers, students and their parents.

"We appreciate the extra help and the kids enjoy it more," said Redick. "I can't thank the Marines enough for their help. Without them, it wouldn't be as successful as it is."



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

(Above left) A group of Parkwood Elementary kids participate in the "Hurricane" game on May 16 that involved dousing other competitors with cups of water. (Above Right) A Hunters Creek Elementary student runs a relay race May 17.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola

H&HS Marines coach elementary children

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
correspondent

Approximately 25 Marines from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron here volunteered to coach the field day at Hunters Creek Elementary School on May 17.

Despite cloudy skies and large puddles left from the previous night's rain, laughter from the fourth-and fifth-grade students filled the air, and smiles were on every face.

"This was so much fun," said Sgt. Margaret K. Smith, H&HS training noncommissioned officer. "They are more competitive than anyone I've seen."

After meeting their teams and leading them in a few stretches, the Marines gave the children tips and encouragement as they participated in the games.

Relay races, such as a jump rope race, hurdles and a three-legged race, made up the majority of the events in which the children competed.

"Cheering on the little kids is great," said Lance Cpl. Eric C. Marini, H&HS air traffic controller. "I'm glad they had fun. If they have fun, I have fun."

Volunteering for the field day was also a way for the Marines to have a positive impact in the Jacksonville area.

"It's great to get out and help the community," said Sgt. Stalyn J. Gonzalez, H&HS administration clerk. "We are part of the community, too. Whether we are stationed here for a few years or many, we are citizens of this community."

With muddy clothes and ribbons in hand, the children left knowing that their school year was almost over, and the Marines left knowing the kids had a good time.

"It was easy to see that the kids had fun," said Gonzalez. "I'm pretty sure the teachers appreciated the help too."

For more information about volunteering, read the article on page 22 or call the Public Affairs Office at 449-5431.

(Center) Marines helped to promote team spirit at Hunter's Creek Elementary School. (Left) A Marine directs a contestant in the "sack race" towards the finish line at the Parkwood Elementary School field day on May 16.

Station golfing in full swing this spring

Sgt. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

The Station Intramural Golf League swung into action at the Paradise Point Scarlet Course aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., on May 18.

According to Station Marine Corps Community Services Athletic Director Nancy Haigh-Stankowski, the competition is limited to New River servicemembers and Department of Defense personnel.

"The intramural golf is being played in a tournament format (72 holes) instead of a league format," said the Beaufort, S.C., native. "At this point, we have nine teams representing five commands: Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Wing Support Squadron-272, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 has two teams and Center for Naval

Aviation Technical Training has four teams."

Each team consists of four players. After each day of play, all teams add their player's scores together, and the three teams with the lowest scores receive points, according to Staff Sgt. William H. Wallace, Station Fuels Division staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and Killen, Texas, native.

"I would love to see more Marines participate in intramural sports," said Staff Sgt. David J. Ault, Station communications chief and native of Oologah, Okla. "It is a great way to meet and bond with Marines in and outside of your unit."

Wallace, who is the H&HS team captain, said the league plays each Wednesday through the finale and awards presentations on June 8.

For more information on intramural golf or the upcoming All Marine Golf Camp, contact Stankowski at 449-5609.



It's your life, buckle up



2nd AABn Marine translates success

Lance Cpl. Evan M. Eagan
contributor

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq -- Whether he's manning the turret of an amphibious assault vehicle, finding weapons caches with his Marines, or interpreting information from Arabic to English, this 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion Marine always gets the job done.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Rourk, 29, crew chief, B Company, 3rd Platoon, is currently stationed here with 2nd Marine Division on his first deployment to Iraq.

Citing frustration with life in the civilian world, Rourke was led to the Marine Corps at the age of 27, after working as a sound engineer for popular rock bands.

"I felt like I could make a difference out here and now I am," said Rourk, a Charleston, S.C., native. "I know I am making a difference and being out here makes me realize why I joined the Marine Corps."

Before deploying, Rourk took a basic Arabic course at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., which has proved to be instrumental in the success of Bravo Co.

"The course crammed one year of college Arabic into a one-month class," said Rourk. "I am not fluent, but I learned the basic essentials and how to apply it to questions like, 'do you have any weapons,' or 'have you seen any insurgents.'"

"Basically, the who, what, where, when and why."

Although he's trained in Arabic, he considers the local Iraqi's to be the one's doing the most important job.

"We have received some really good information from the people," he said. "It's the Iraqi's who have the courage to speak up that are doing all the work."

On their most recent operation in Al Anbar province, Bravo Co. uncovered four weapons caches in one day, accounting for the company's most significant find during their deployment.

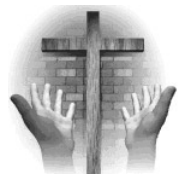
For Sgt. Isaac Alexander, assistant section leader, B. Co., 3rd Plt., Rourk was an easy choice.

"He is a front runner in our platoon," said Alexander. "He doesn't slack off, and he never half-steps. He is a good Marine."

"Right now, we are just going to keep doing what were doing," said Rourk. "Aside from completing the mission, all I care about is getting all the boys home safe."

God's wisdom, your attitude, acceptance

Lt. Cmdr. Barry J. Baughman
Marine Aircraft Group-26 chaplain



Over the years, I've realized that whenever I'm upset, it's usually because I've let some person, place or situation control the way I feel. We

often forget that no matter what happens to us, we still have a major part to play in choosing how we are going to feel and react in situations.

When we take the time that's necessary to choose to react positively to a difficult situation, we can weather most of the storms life throws at us.

If somebody or something causes you to feel anything, you are possibly giving it more power over you than you should. The key word here is "possibly." Our feelings are affected by the actions of others; we must take the time to choose to react in a positive way.

I have three favorite quotes that help me achieve a better sense of perspective in most situations. Now, by adopting a better perspective, I can usually find a less stressful way of resolving most situations. I've learned to do this by simply applying my three favorite quotes, as if they were some sort of "stress reducing" filters, to every situation I face.

The first filter comes from Reinhold Niebuhr's "Serenity Prayer:"

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can;

and wisdom to know the difference."

What a wonderful quote! No matter what happens to me, I recognize that without God's help and guidance, I may not have the wisdom to determine what's worth fighting for and what isn't. I need God to help me determine what to accept in my life and what to fight. Some people accept everything and never take a stand to fight anything, while others fight everything and never accept anything. I call upon God's wisdom to show me the difference.

The second filter is Dr. Charles Swindoll's "Attitude:"

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, gifts or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is ten percent what happens to me and ninety percent how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes."

This is, by far my most favorite quote. It helps me to see that my atti-

tude is key to solving problems I face. We choose the attitude we will use to face each situation. We control our own attitudes.

The third filter is an anonymous quote called "Acceptance:"

"Acceptance is the answer to all my problems today. When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing or situation -- some fact of my life -- unacceptable to me. I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing or situation as being exactly the way it is suppose to be at this moment. Nothing, absolutely nothing, happens in God's world by mistake. Unless I accept life completely on life's terms, I cannot be happy. I need to concentrate not so much on what needs to be changed in the world as on what needs to be changed in me and my attitudes."

When I get hurt or angry, this quote helps me realize, nine out of ten times, it's because I have given something more power in my life than I should. Therefore, the answer usually lies in accepting what happened.

With God's wisdom, the proper attitude and acceptance, we can confidently face most situations knowing what's worth fighting for and what isn't. The answers we seek often lie in having the wisdom to know what's worth fighting for as opposed to accepting and what's worth holding on to as opposed to letting go.

When, with God's help, we combine wisdom, attitude and acceptance we choose, and the choice is a simple one.

Chapel, kids take summer 'vacation'

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

Vacation Bible School at Memorial Chapel starts next Monday, and is open to all children of servicemembers or civilians working on Station in preschool to 6th grade.

The annual event is volunteer-driven and open to all denominations of Christianity, said Judy Bradford, director of religious education for Protestants.

"This is a great opportunity for us to reach out," said Bradford. "It is a great chance for Marines to serve their community."

This year's theme is "Kingdom of the Son," and will be going on everyday next week from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., she said.

The VBS daily schedule consists of studying sections of the Lord's Prayer; each lesson

highlights a specified part of the prayer, helping children understand the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.

The VBS finale will be next Friday when the children gather to sing for their parents and volunteers, said Bradford.

According to Petty Officer First Class Aaron D. Painter, religious program specialist for Marine Aircraft Group-26, children can sign up for this "great evangelical event" anytime before Sunday by contacting the Memorial Chapel Office at 449-6801.

For more information about the VBS program, visit the program Web site at <http://gospel-lightvbs.com/theme.php>.

Daily session plans

Monday - God is our loving and powerful Father who listens to our prayers.

Tuesday - God meets all our needs and uses us to meet the needs of others.

Wednesday - God forgives us and uses us to forgive others.

Thursday - God helps us say no to temptation.

Friday - We can praise God for raising Jesus from the dead and giving us a place in His kingdom.

Memorial Chapel Services

Catholic 9 a.m.
Protestant 11 a.m.

For more information call Memorial Chapel at 449-6801.



Opinion: Volunteering, maintaining good community relations

Sgt. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

Remember what your views of the military were before you enlisted in the Marine Corps? They may have been either positive or negative, but either way, they were probably spurred by sheer curiosity.

Now imagine growing up in a small town, hearing the thunder of helicopters overhead here, seeing the intimidating convoys of amphibious vehicles traveling through from Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., and hearing the occasional roar of Marine fighter jets from MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

When these elements are combined, trying to accomplish the Marine Corps mission and living peacefully with the civilians in the outlying areas at the same time could be difficult. That's why interacting with the community and keeping positive community relations is necessary.

Just as we were before we joined the armed forces, the community will forever be curious about what the military is doing.

The community relations section of the Joint Public Affairs Office here works diligently to provide a link between the two. This is accomplished by allowing escorted civilians to come on Station when requested.

In 2004, the community relations department hosted more than 44 Station tours, and so far in 2005, have conducted more than 10.

When they are coordinated, every effort is made to get in as much sight-seeing and information as possible. If a group of school children wants to have lunch at the Dining Facility and then go to the Meteorological and Oceanographic Center because they study the weather in school, then that's what is accomplished. If a group of Vietnam veterans wants to visit their former squadron and see simulators, then every effort is made on the end of the community relations department to achieve what they requested to see during the visit.

The role of the community relations department usually ends at coordination and escort. The individual Marines who volunteer to speak to the groups and show them what they do on a daily basis are the ones

who gain the most experience and rewarding feelings from their time.

It is through the openness of these brief tours, allowing individuals to come on Station and talk to servicemembers in person and see what they do, that the military maintains a positive image and projects the likeness of role models to the younger children in the community.

However, allowing civilians on Station is not the only form of interaction.

For instance, there are more than 22 schools in Jacksonville alone.

Some of these are for military children and others have no military affiliation whatsoever. No matter what the case may be, these schools are constantly requesting help through community relations for tutoring, mentoring, proctoring tests and speaking during career days. They look to us for help because they know the Marine Corps has a reputation of discipline and core values. These opportunities to give back to the local area can be rewarding, enriching and are positive activities that more young Marines should get involved with.

In 2004, community relations signed up Station Marines to attend five different schools for proctoring. That number doesn't include the extensive number who tutor steadily and mentor on a regular basis.

Annually, help is needed for various charitable organizations such as the Special Olympics, Onslow County, just to name one. The success of these organizations depends on Marine Corps units' willingness to help the organizations.

The civilians coexisting with the military will forever be curious about us, but through our help and dedication to serving, protecting and helping them, we will receive the same treatment in return.

This article was written from my own viewpoints as the former media and community relations chief here, as well as volunteer and tutor. I included no attribution of other people's views because helping others is a common-sense activity we should all be active in.

For more information about becoming more involved with the community, call the Public Affairs Office at 449-5431.

Fun youth activities for summer

Sgt. Wayne Campbell
correspondent

Remembering summer vacation can bring back either fond memories of fun activities or times of boredom sitting at home waiting for something exciting to happen.

To help combat summertime boredom, the Marine Corps Community Services here is holding several youth camps.

At the New River Youth Center, there are two activities for children to participating.

One activity is the Drug Education for Youth Program beginning July 25 and is a free eight-day camp for children ages 9-12, according to Shantelle Britt, MCCS youth program director.

The mission of this program is to deter at-risk behaviors by giving children the tools they need to resist drugs and develop positive social skills, according to the DEFY mission statement.

The leadership and life skills training provided by DEFY include goal setting, team building, conflict resolution and decision making, according to Britt.

"There are two phases to the DEFY program," said Britt. "The first phase is the summer camp where the children play games, go on field trips and learn leadership skills. The second phase is once a month meetings throughout the school year."

According to Britt, the children will need to participate in the full program to be able to graduate in May.

"I get many calls from parents whose children have participated in the program saying that their child was hit at school and through the conflict resolution skills they learned in the DEFY program, they were able to calm down and resolve the situation without violence," said Britt.

Another program the youth center provides is open recreation.

Open recreation is free playtime for children with some scheduled activities.

"We try to schedule different activities for each day of the week," said Britt. "One day we may have a cooking activity and another day we will have art or sports."

This program is open from 3 - 5:30 p.m. for children 6-12 and 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. for teens. Saturdays are open for all ages from 1 - 6 p.m.

The fee for open recreation is \$5 per year, with the year beginning in August.

The youth center isn't the only place children can go to have an exciting summer.

The fitness center is also organizing several sport activity camps.

For more information about upcoming camps, contact the youth center at 449-6711 or the fitness center at 449-0294.

CRIME STOPPERS Reports

Burglary

On May 14, a burglary occurred at a Jacksonville residence in the area of Pine Valley Road. The suspect, described as a younger black male, was discovered inside the residence by one of the homeowners and fled the scene on foot. A maroon high-impact Magna men's 18-speed bicycle was found discarded near the residence after the suspect fled.

Missing Person

Charles Clifton Gramby is a black male about 25-years-old. He is approximately 6'2" and weighs 180 lbs. He has black hair, brown eyes and has "CG" tattooed on his right arm. He was last seen in the Piney Green area on March 5.

Hit and Run

A 2003 white Chevrolet Monte Carlo or Impala was involved in a hit and run accident on May 20. The accident occurred at 102 Cole Drive. The suspect automobile has extensive front bumper and front end damage.

If you have any information regarding any of these three incidents, call the local 24-hour Crime Stoppers hot line at 938-3273.

Station Theater Movies

June 1 - 13

Day/Date	Time	Title	Rating	Length
Wed. June 1	7 p.m.	Sahara	PG-13	120 min.
Fri. June 3	7 p.m.	Amityville Horror	R	89 min.
	9:30 p.m.	The Interpreter	PG-13	128 min.
Sat. June 4	7 p.m.	Amityville Horror	R	89 min.
	9:30 p.m.	The Interpreter	PG-13	128 min.
Sun. June 5	3 p.m.	The Interpreter	PG-13	128 min.
	6 p.m.	A Lot Like Love	PG-13	107 min.
Mon. June 6	1 p.m.	The Incredibles	PG	105 min.
	7 p.m.	Amityville Horror	R	89 min.
Wed. June 8	7 p.m.	A Lot Like Love	PG-13	107 min.
Fri. June 10	7 p.m.	King's Ransom	PG-13	95 min.
	9:30 p.m.	XXX: State of the Union	PG-13	101 min.
Sat. June 11	7 p.m.	King's Ransom	PG-13	95 min.
	9:30 p.m.	A Lot Like Love	PG-13	107 min.
Sun. June 12	3 p.m.	XXX: State of the Union	PG-13	101 min.
	6 p.m.	King's Ransom	PG-13	95 min.
Mon. June 13	1 p.m.	Racing Stripes	PG	84 min.
	7 p.m.	XXX: State of the Union	PG-13	101 min.



The theater snack bar opens 30 minutes before the first movie and closes 45 minutes after the last movie begins. Movies and times are subject to change.



For more information, call the Station Theater at 449-6292 or 449-6528.

A \$1 admission fee is charged for ages seven and above.

FEATHERNECK

CRAIG H. STREETER



If you say, "It don't get no better than this" one more time, I'll break your face.

Public sees Station in action for Open House



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

Two Army Golden Knights prepare to make a precision parachute drop at the Station Open House on May 25.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

(Above) An Army Golden Knight flies high above the Station. (Below) A pair of guests at the Station Open House on May 25 enjoy the food, the flights and the sights.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
correspondent

The Station Open House on May 25 allowed approximately 3,000 people to get a brief glimpse of life aboard New River and a close-up look at the people and machinery that make the Marines the best fighting force in the world.

They also had the opportunity to be entertained by the world's top aerial demonstration teams

However, the flawlessness with which the event seemed to take place betrayed the many hours of work that went into making the Open House a success.

"There is a lot going on behind the scenes," said Dennis G. Riley, Marine Corps Community Services director of business operations. "Getting all the logistics in place, setting up the airfield for the comfort of the audience, providing food and beverage and scheduling all the events took about three months of planning."

The public was allowed to begin entering the gates at 11:00 a.m., and parking was provided on the flightline. At the center of the airfield, bleachers, food vendors and several static displays of Marine Corps vehicles, ranging from helicopters to tanks, were provided for the enjoyment of the audience.

The U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team began their performance at 1:00 p.m., as the jumpers made their appearance high above the crowd. Once safely on the ground, the team signed autographs and spoke with the spectators.

The next performers were the "Commandant's Own" Drum and Bugle Corps and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

"I've seen them in Washington, and they are just great" said Mary Anne Berryman, a Wilmington, Del., native. "My son-in-law is a Marine, and we came down for our grandson's graduation, but being able to see something like this makes the trip even better."

After watching the precisely choreographed and disciplined arrangements by the Marine teams, the crowd was treated to a nine-plane aerial acrobatic demonstration by the Canadian Forces Snowbirds. The Snowbirds performed complex maneuvers while flying in tight formations and executed passes that seemed to bring them within feet of one another.

After their performance, the Snowbirds also took time to greet the audience and sign autographs.

"I think the crowd really enjoyed what they saw," said Maj. Ian McLean, Snowbird commanding officer and team leader. "We were able to make it a pretty challenging performance, and it's great to get out and meet the people as well."

As the Open House came to an end, the show's organizers said the goals of the day had been accomplished.

"It turned out as we had planned it," said Maj. Michael A. Wood, Station Operations officer-in-charge. "We had a better turnout than we expected. I hope everyone was able to enjoy the show."

According to Riley, the Open House also served as a preliminary test for the Station's next air show.

"The planning for the air show will be much longer and more detailed," he said.

"This will give us ideas about how to do things better and serve as a guide for the future. We want the audience to see nothing but a well executed and orchestrated show."

It is important for citizens to see what goes on inside the gates of military installations, Riley said, because it helps to foster a sense of unity between civilian and military families and helps to show support for deployed servicemembers.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

The "Commandant's Own" Drum and Bugle Corps take the field during the Station Open House on May 25.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

Approximately 3,000 area residents, guests and Marines attended the Station Open House on May 25. The crowds were treated to aerial and musical performances and static displays.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

The Silent Drill Platoon puts on a show at the Station Open House on May 25. The platoon performs intricate and complex drill movements without the aid of a spoken cadence.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

The Canadian Forces Snowbirds pilots stayed long after their performance to meet with guests and sign autographs May 25 at the Station Open House.